MALIBU COMICS
ULTRAVERSE
YEAR ZERO
THE DEATH OF
THE SQUAD
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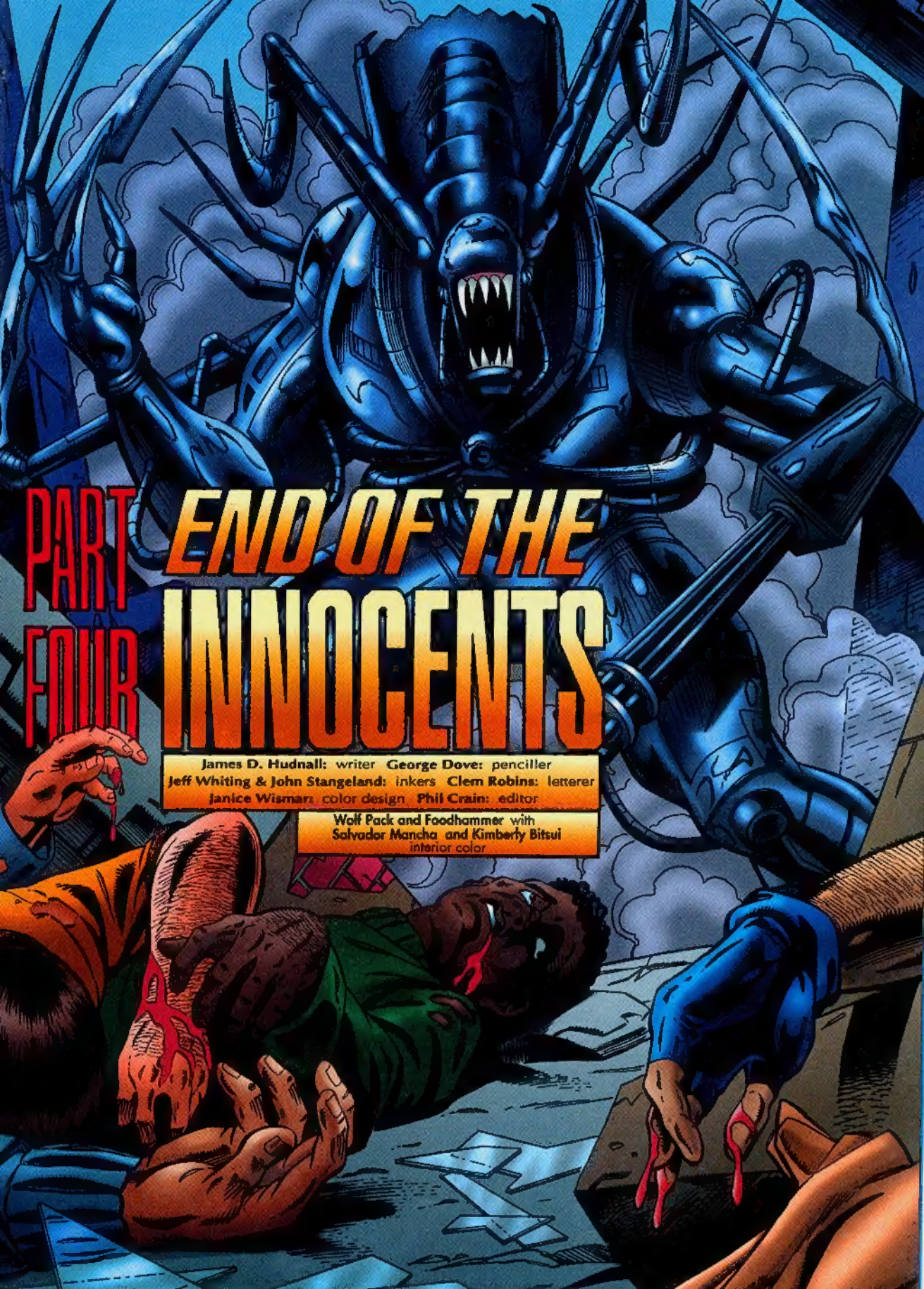
R.I.P.
THE FINAL BATTLE!
MORALES
1995
DIRECT EDITION
HUDNALL
DOVE
STANGELAND &
WHITING



PART FOUR END OF THE INNOCENTS

James D. Hudnall: writer George Dove: penciller
Jeff Whiting & John Stangeland: inkers Clem Robins: letterer
Janice Wisman: color design Phil Crain: editor

Wolf Pack and Foodhammer with
Salvador Mancha and Kimberly Bitsui
interior color

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OUR TIME WAS COMING TO AN END, AND ALMOST AS IF WE KNEW IT, OUR EMOTIONS WERE TURNING GLOOMY.
WE'D FAILED TO DO MUCH IN THE L.A. RIOT, AND WE HAD FAILED IN OTHER SMALL WAYS, TOO.
SO WE WERE LOOKING FOR A NEW DIRECTION, UNAWARE THAT THE HOURGLASS OF OUR LIVES HAD ALMOST SPILLED ITS LAST GRAINS OF SAND.
DEEP WITHIN THE EARTH, UNDER MILES OF OCEAN DEPTHS, THE MAN WHO ISN'T A MAN WAS ACCUMULATING NAMES.
THERE WERE PEOPLE HE WANTED TO KILL, AND THEIR DOSSIERS FLICKERED ACROSS HIS LIVE SCREENS FASTER THAN THE HUMAN EYE COULD SEE.
BUT REX MUNDI DRANK IN EVERY WORD, EVERY PHOTO, AND WHEN HE SAW THE FACES OF THE SQUAD, HE SMILED.
IT NEVER PAYS TO RUSH PLEASURABLE EXPERIENCES.
THESE I SAVE FOR LAST.

TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT THEM. YOU'LL BE DESTROYING THEM SOON.
BUT FIRST THERE ARE OTHERS I WANT YOU TO TAKE CARE OF.
I'M DOWN-LOADING THE NAMES AND PARTICULARS OF THESE TARGETS INTO YOUR DATABASE.
AS BEFORE, TRY NOT TO BE SEEN. WE LIVE IN THE AGE OF TELEVISION NOW, SO IT'S DOUBLY IMPORTANT.
HE WATCHES HIS PRIZE CREATION LEAVE AND FOR A BRIEF MOMENT UNDER-STANDS WHAT SOME HUMAN FATHERS FEEL WHEN THEY LOOK AT THEIR PROGENY.
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CENTURY CITY, CALIFORNIA: HEADQUARTERS OF THE SQUAD.
WE'VE BEEN GETTING A LOT OF LETTERS ABOUT THE RIOTS. SOME PRAISING US FOR TRYING TO STOP THEM, SOME CONDEMNING US FOR WORKING FOR "THE MAN."
I GOTTA TELL YOU, THE WHOLE EXPERIENCE LEFT A SOUR TASTE IN MY MOUTH. I FELT WE'D FAILED TO DO MUCH, AND THAT MADE ME WONDER IF WE'RE MAKING ANY DIFFERENCE OUT THERE.
I THINK WE ARE, TOM. YOU HAVE TO EXPECT CRITICISM NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO, THAT'S THE NAME OF THE GAME. DOING WHAT MATTERS TO YOU.
SOME PEOPLE ARE GOING TO PUT US DOWN NO MATTER WHAT. YOU CAN'T PLEASE EVERYONE, AND WHY SHOULD WE? WE NEED TO STICK TO OUR OWN PLAN.
The Squad
CARLOS IS RIGHT. THERE'S ALWAYS GONNA BE SOMEONE OUT TO TEAR YOU DOWN.
I GET A LOT OF LETTERS FROM MY PEOPLE CALLING ME AN UNCLE TOM, A HOUSE NEGRO, JUST BECAUSE I WORK WITH THE POLICE.
BUT THERE'S A LOT OF OTHER PEOPLE WHO RESPECT WHAT I DO. PEOPLE WHO ARE SICK OF THE CRIME THAT INFESTS OUR CITY. AND I GOTTA SAY, I'M WITH THEM.
ALL RIGHT, BUT WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO NOW? DO WE KEEP ON WORKING FOR THE CITY OR DO WE LOOK AT OTHER OPTIONS?
L.A. IS JUST ONE TOWN. THERE ARE PROBLEMS ALL OVER THE WORLD WE COULD BE FOCUSING OUR ATTENTION ON.

TOM... ARE YOU REFERRING TO THAT OFFER FROM THE GOVERNMENT?
SORT OF. WE'RE SUPPOSED TO MEET WITH THEM NEXT WEEK. I WAS WONDERING WHAT EVERYONE FELT ABOUT THAT.
I DRAW THE LINE AT THE FEDS. NO WAY!
GOVERNMENT JOBS HAVE A LOT OF BENEFITS, BUT WE DON'T NEED THEM. WE DON'T NEED THE CITY, EITHER. WE'RE MAKING PLENTY OF MONEY NOW, DOING COMMERCIALS AND THINGS.
I WANT TO HELP PEOPLE ...FIGHT CRIME... BUT THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT SEND US OUT TO DO SHADY STUFF, LIKE PROTECT A DICTATOR OR SOMETHING. NOT THIS DUDE!
I'M GLAD TO HEAR YOU ALL SAY THIS, BECAUSE I FEEL THE SAME WAY. TO BE HONEST, I'VE REALLY BEEN HAVING DOUBTS ABOUT WORKING FOR THE CITY, EVEN.
ESPECIALLY SINCE THEY DIDN'T WANT US TO GET INVOLVED WITH THE RIOTS.
WE'D BETTER TAKE THE MEETING WITH THEM, JUST THE SAME.
IT WOULDN'T BE A GOOD IDEA TO BRUSH OFF THE GOVERNMENT WITHOUT HEARING WHAT THEY HAD TO SAY FIRST.
WE DON'T WANT THEM TO THINK WE'RE AGAINST THEM. NO TELLING WHAT TROUBLE THAT COULD BRING.

CULVER CITY: EVER SINCE THAT DAY SIX MONTHS AGO, LUCY JONES HAS BEEN IN HEAVEN.
ONCE SHE HAD THE POWER TO CONTROL HUMAN THOUGHT, SHE CHOSE THE MOST HANDSOME MEN AROUND TO BE HER SERVANTS.
SHE STARTED THINKING ABOUT WHERE THIS MIGHT LEAD HER, AND BEGAN TO PLAN A FUTURE OF WEALTH AND COMFORT.
BUT THOSE PLANS WERE NEVER REALIZED.

HANCOCK PARK, CALIF. BOB ANZANO AND JOE DEVRIES WERE ENJOYING THE FRUITS OF THEIR LABOR.
EVER SINCE THEY DISCOVERED THEY GAINED POWERS SIX MONTHS AGO, THEY'VE BEEN BUSY.
TWO MILLION, FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND...NOT A BAD HAUL.
WE CAN DO BETTER NEXT TIME.
BOB'S EGO HAD GROWN IN THOSE SIX MONTHS. HE ALWAYS THOUGHT HE WAS RIGHT ABOUT EVERYTHING.
I SAY WE GO ROB THE MAIN BANK DOWNTOWN THIS TIME. WE DO IT ON A DAY WHEN THE SQUAD'S BUSY ELSEWHERE. THERE'S NO ONE ELSE WHO COULD TAKE US DOWN--
BOB WAS WRONG.

THIS IS ROBERT MARLON ANZANO...WHO WE BELIEVE WAS PART OF A TWO-MAN *HEIST TEAM* THAT ROBBED AN ARMORED CAR THIS WEEK.
BOTH ANZANO AND HIS PARTNER WERE BRUTALLY KILLED BY SOME KIND OF ULTRA-HUMAN THING. AND THEY'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES.
TEN OTHER PEOPLE AROUND THE CITY HAVE BEEN KILLED IN A SIMILAR FASHION. ALL IN THE SPACE OF TEN DAYS.
THE ONLY CONNECTION WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE IS THAT MOST OF THE VICTIMS MAY HAVE BEEN ULTRAS.
ULTRAS...
I THOUGHT WE WERE THE ONLY ONES.
MAYBE *NOW* YOU ARE. BUT THESE APPARENTLY KEPT OUT OF THE LIME LIGHT.
SOMEONE KNEW ABOUT THEM, THOUGH. AND YOU MAY BE THE NEXT TARGET.
WE'LL KEEP OUR EYES OPEN.

SQUAD HEADQUARTERS, TWO DAYS LATER. WE MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALADDIN. THEY WANTED US TO JOIN THEIR ORGANIZATION.
WE'VE CONSIDERED YOUR OFFER, BUT WE HAVE TO TURN IT DOWN.
ARE YOU SERIOUS? DON'T YOU KNOW HOW IMPORTANT YOU WOULD BE WORKING FOR US?
WE'RE THE BIG TIME! WHY KEEP WORKING FOR THIS TOWN, WHEN YOU CAN BE WORKING FOR AMERICA INSTEAD?
YOU'RE ALL DOING A GREAT JOB IN L.A., BUT THE COUNTRY COULD PUT YOU TO BETTER USE.
"USE"! I HEAR THAT!
LISTEN UP! I SAW JFK. I KNOW WHAT KIND OF "USE" THE GOVERNMENT PUTS PEOPLE TO!
YOU DON'T SERIOUSLY BELIEVE THAT OLIVER STONE TRASH, DO YOU?
ALADDIN HELPS ULTRAS REALIZE THEIR TRUE POTENTIAL. WE'RE THE GOOD GUYS.
TRUST US.
NO THANKS.

LATER, IN TOM'S OFFICE, WE TRIED TO STEAL A MOMENT TOGETHER.
I CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF YOU
I HOPE WE DID THE RIGHT THING, TELLING THEM TO BUZZ OFF.

THE LAST THING I WANT IS SOMETHING LIKE THE GOVERNMENT RUINING THE GOOD THING WE HAVE GOING HERE

WHATEVER HAPPENS, NOTHING IS GOING TO PREVENT ME FROM BEING WITH YOU

I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT

WE HAD ONE LAST ADVENTURE* A GANG OF TERRORISTS HELD A HIGH SCHOOL HOSTAGE, DEMANDING A RANSOM FOR THEIR RELEASE.
WE TOOK THEM DOWN SMOOTHLY NO PROBLEM.
IT MADE US FEEL GOOD ABOUT OURSELVES LIKE WE REALLY WERE A BUNCH OF HEROES
LIKE WE REALLY DID HAVE A PURPOSE
POLICE
FBI
POLICE
IN THAT BRIEF MOMENT, WE PUT ASIDE ALL DOUBTS WE FELT LIKE WINNERS.
LIKE WE WOULD LAST FOREVER..
*ULTRAVERSE PREMIERE #0

ENCINO, CALIFORNIA. ONE DAY LATER
FORSA BOUGHT A NEW HOME AND INVITED ALL OF US OVER FOR A HOUSE-WARMING PARTY
GIRL, HAVE YOU SEEN THE LATEST ENQUIRER?
NO. WHAT ABOUT IT?
HE REALLY DISSED YOU IN THIS RAG!
NATIONAL ENQUIRER
Hardcase Stole My Girl Says Ex-Beau
Sex and Drug Orgies at Squad Headquarters

I DON'T BELIEVE IT! THAT LITTLE WEASEL!
WHEN DID THIS COME OUT?!
TODAY. I GOT IT AT THE STORE WHEN I BOUGHT THE MUNCHIES
WHAT'S THE MATTER, HON?
PETE, MY EX... HE SOLD HIS STORY TO THE TABLOIDS. MADE UP ALL SORTS OF LIES ABOUT US!
OH MAN... THIS IS TOO MUCH! I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!
WHAT'S IT SAY?
HOW ABOUT THAT YOU AND JAMAL ARE GAY LOVERS
WHAT?!
NOW WE KNOW WE'VE ARRIVED. FIRST THE PRESS LOVES YOU, THEN, WHEN THEY THINK YOU'RE TOO POPULAR THEY TEAR YOU DOWN

IT ALL HAPPENED SO FAST
WUNCH
FIFTEEN PEOPLE DEAD BEFORE WE EVEN KNEW WHAT WAS GOING ON
BBRRAAAP
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IT'S THE ULTRA-KILLER!
AND WE LET OUR EMOTIONS GET THE BETTER OF US
THAT WAS MY FAMILY!
KATHOOM
SWARD
WE'D NEVER DEALT WITH ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE
FORSA USED HIS POWERS TO KNOCK THE CREATURE CLEAR OF THE HOUSE...

...AND INTO A NEARBY AQUA DUCT
YOU WON'T FIND US SO EASY TO KILL!
LEAVE HIM ALONE!
KRUNCH

STARBURST! DAMN!
KDOOM
HERE COMES THE PAIN, YOU FREAK! EAT IT!
AAAGH!
BRRAP
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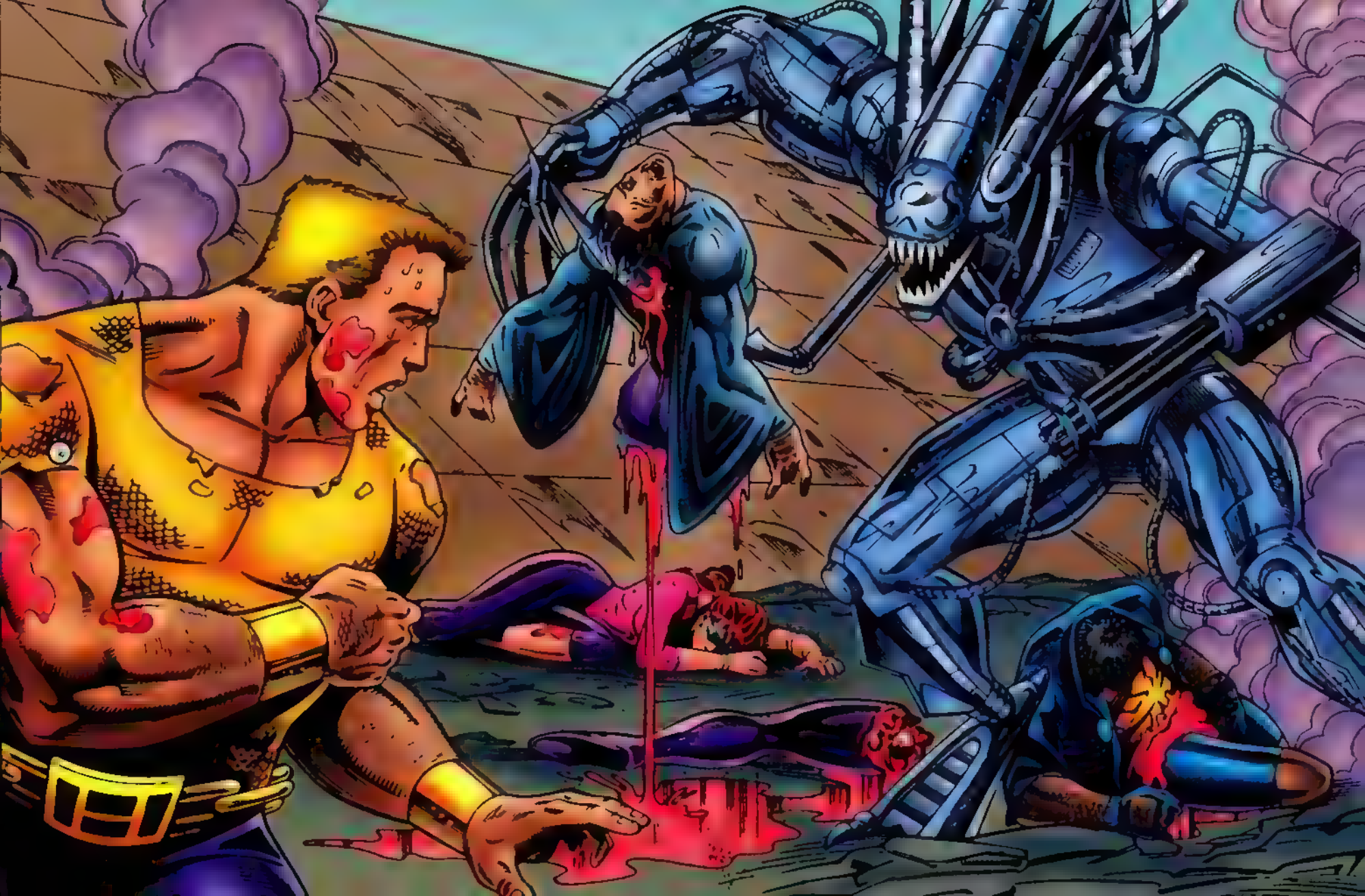
JAMAL!!
HARDCASE! WAKE UP!!
I'M TRYING TO HOLD IT, BUT IT'S TOO STRONG!
HARDCASE!
AAAH
UHN WHAT ?
JESUS CHRIST!



TOM WAS CONSUMED WITH FEAR IN THAT MOMENT DOUBT PLAGUED HIM LIKE NEVER BEFORE
HE DIDN'T KNOW IF WE WERE ALIVE OR DEAD HE WASN'T SURE IF HE SHOULD RUN OR FIGHT
IN HIS HEART HE KNEW EITHER WAY HE WOULD LOSE
AAAHH! I'LL KILL YOU!
HARDCASE, NO!
FORSA'S SMOKED, AND I'M ALMOST GONE!
SAVE YOURSELF! GET STARBURST OUT OF HERE! G-GONNA TRY SOMETHIN'!

JAAAMAAL
THINK YOU'RE GONNA WIN?! I GOT SOME BAD NEWS!

AAAH!
JAMAL CARLOS

I NEVER CAME OUT OF MY COMA
IT MAY HAVE HAPPENED, BUT THE GOVERNMENT MADE SURE I DIDN'T WAKE UP
THEY TOOK ME TO THEIR GROOM LAKE FACILITY AND STOLE A SECTION OF MY BRAIN FOR EXPERIMENTATION.
THAT SECTION WENT INTO ANOTHER WOMAN'S BODY, AND SHE BECAME TOM'S LOVER, CHOICE
JAMAL BLASS
1973-1992
HE FOUGHT FOR JUSTICE
CARLOS JIMENEZ
1964-1992
THE PEOPLE HAVE LOST ANOTHER CHAMPION
CARLOS AND JAMAL WERE BOTH KILLED THOUGH CARLOS' DEATH WAS A LITTLE LATER UNDER DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES.*
* SEE HARDCASE #13
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MOST OF THE ZULU GANG HAVE SINCE BEEN KILLED IN DRIVE-BYS OR SENT TO PRISON FOR VARIOUS CRIMES. THEIR LEADER DIED OF AN OVERDOSE IN 1994.
JASVINDER SINGH HAS NEVER CHARGED WITH THE DEATHS OF THE RIOTERS, BECAUSE HE NEVER TOLD ANYBODY WHAT HAPPENED THAT DAY.
HE ENDED UP LEAVING THE FAMILY BUSINESS AND FOLLOWING HIS DREAM OF BECOMING A PHOTOGRAPHER. THE SECRET OF HIS POWER REMAINS WITH HIM.
SONY
TRIO
AKAI
Panasonic
GoldStar VIDEO
TOSHIBA
PETE JENSEN, MY EX-BOYFRIEND, HAS BEEN SINKING INTO A MORASS OF DRUGS AND ALCOHOL SINCE THE ATTACK.
HE WAS ON HIS WAY DOWN LONG BEFORE I BROKE UP WITH HIM. WHO KNOWS IF HE'LL EVER GO CLEAN.
AND TOM HAWKE LIVES ON, FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT AND TRYING TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE
SOMEDAY, WE HOPE..
HE'LL SUCCEED
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The End

When Heroes Need Heroes!

ULTRAFORCE

The Comic Book

ULTRAVERSE®

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THE SQUAD PIN-UP GALLERY

SB
Scott Benthal
JAZEN... 2003
TOORIGUEZ